

## BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

### FARMING IS A FAMILY TRADITION FOR LOCAL RESIDENT

**A**nker Christensen will always be known as the prolific farmer, bricklayer and contractor who helped lay Bloomington's foundation. If you owned a brick home around 90th Street and Humboldt in the 1950s, chances are, Christensen laid the bricks. Yet Christensen's daughter Lilly, also has a place in Bloomington's history books, as owner and operator of the popular Schermerhorn Nursery, one of the first nurseries in Bloomington.

For nearly two decades, beginning around 1950, Lilly and her husband Kingsley, along with their four children, operated the Schermerhorn Nursery. Open for business year-round, the nursery specialized in everything from sod and fertilizer to cut flowers and house plants to farm equipment and fire wood.

The Schermerhorn family even provided snowplowing services to residents during the long winter months. During their busiest summer



months, Schermerhorn estimates they had 25 people working at the nursery.

"Growing up on a farm, the nursery business came natural to me," Schermerhorn said. "Although it was hard work, we sure had fun and made a good time of it while it lasted."

## SOUTH LOOP VISION COMES ALIVE

### PLANS MOVE FORWARD FOR BLOOMINGTON DESTINATION

**S**outh Loop, the area in east Bloomington that extends from TH77 on the west to I-494 on the north and to the Minnesota River on the south and east, will be undergoing some major changes aimed at transforming the district into a model for sustainable commerce and living.

The *South Loop District Plan* encourages mixed-use living and working communities with excellent transit access. The City plans to transform the large street grid and streetscape to be smaller and more pedestrian friendly, with improved access to major destinations in the district. Additional highlights from the plan include:

#### Lindau Lane greenway

Lindau Lane will be extended from 24th Avenue to Bloomington Central Station to improve accessibility and encourage the use of alternative transportation such as biking and light rail transit.

According to Community Development Director Larry Lee, extending Lindau Lane will serve as a catalyst for development, connect the Mall of America (MOA) and



Bloomington Central Station, and create a more desirable place that will be attractive to residents, businesses and the hospitality industry.

"Creating smaller, more livable blocks encourages walking, while still preserving natural and industrial areas and encouraging transit use," Lee said.

A greenway on Lindau Lane will serve as a gathering place for the community and connect the district's two signature developments – MOA and Bloomington Central Station.

#### New residential neighborhood

The area around the intersection of 34th Avenue and American Boulevard is envisioned as a new residential neighborhood with up to 3,500 multi-family dwellings. Residents of the area will have the unique advantage of being close to two light rail transit stations with easy access to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

#### 24th Avenue gateway

Streetscape improvements, a major renovation of the Mall of America transit station and new buildings lining 24th Avenue will transform the appearance of this important street. Greenery along the sidewalks will add to the street's appeal and filter rainwater.

#### The bluffs and above

A partnership between the City and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will preserve the natural beauty of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Access for pedestrians and bicyclists will be improved.

The *map above* illustrates some of the key design concepts for the district.

Final recommendations and concepts for the *South Loop District Plan* will be presented to the City Council in the spring. For more information, visit the City's website.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SOUTH LOOP.**

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## RAMBLER REDO SERIES

### ON THE WEB

#### EXPERT ADVICE AND TIPS FOR REMODELING YOUR HOME

**T**he Rambler Redo series that you've enjoyed in the *Briefing* now has its own page on the City's website. The *Rambler Redo* series will show you how to address some of the more common updating and remodeling issues in one of the coolest and most popular types of homes in Bloomington: the rambler.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: RAMBLER REDO.**

## COME INSIDE AT DWAN

### CLUBHOUSE OPEN YEAR-ROUND

**T**he weather may not be appropriate for golf, but there's plenty to do inside at the Dwan clubhouse, 3301 West 110th Street. The clubhouse serves breakfast and lunch. Card players are welcome. Winter hours are Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. For more information, call 952-563-8702.

**WEBSITE KEYWORD: DWAN.**

## RECYCLE OLD THERMOSTATS

### HENNEPIN COUNTY FACILITY OFFERING \$5 GIFT CARD

**D**id you know you can save energy and money by replacing your traditional thermostat with a programmable one? Recycle your old thermostat by bringing it to the South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-Off Center, 1400 West 96th Street. Traditional thermostats contain dangerous mercury and must be recycled. **Drop off your old thermostat by March 31** and receive a \$5 Menards gift card. For more information, visit [www.hennepin.us/dropoffs](http://www.hennepin.us/dropoffs).



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